that their enhanced financial aid to Pakistan, as a price for support to activities of Al-Qaeda, is being misused for intensifying terrorism; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Despite its commitment to end cross-border infiltration permanently, not allow the territory of Pakistan to used for terrorism anywhere in the world, and not allow any organization in Pakistan to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir, Pakistan has continued its sponsorship, support and providing safe haven to international terrorism. The infrastructure of support for such terrorism including training camps, funding and launching stations have also been sustained.

(b) and (c) Government have been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. Government have also pointed out that any double standards in the fight against terrorism would make the efforts of the international coalition self-defeating. Government have also conveyed their view that donor countries have not adequately used their economic leverage to influence Pakistan to end its sponsorship and support for international terrorism.

Passports of Pakistani terrorists

†1008. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Pak aatankiyon ko Dhaka se passport", appearing in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated the 24th December, 2002;

(b) the estimated number of terrorists who entered into the country on the basis of Bangladeshi passport; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Following erection of border fencing with flood lights along Punjab, Rajasthan and part of Gujarat and J&K borders, infiltration in the western border, has become very difficult. Therefore as per reports available, Pakistan has been attempting to infiltrate agents of terror, sabotage, subversion and espionage through the porous Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh borders. There are reports to indicate that it is attempting to infiltrate Pakistani agents under the assumed identity of Bangladeshi nationals with Bangladeshi passports. The Government is alert against any such designs of Pakistan. Our concerns over activities of ISI of Pakistan have also been shared with Government of Bangladesh. Government of Bangladesh has assured us of not allowing its territory for any activity inimical to India's interest.

Deputy Prime Minister's Qatar visit

†1009. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Prime Minister had visited Qatar recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed between the two countries;

(c) whether during the discussion the Deputy Prime Minister had urged the Qatar Government to provide the right of religous freedom and worship accordjng to their respective religions to the people who came from other countries for jobs in Qatar; and

(d) if so, Qatar Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The two countries discussed ways of increasing bilateral cooperation in the fields of security, petroleum and natural gas, civil aviation and human resource development.

(c) and (d) The two sides discussed the question of religious freedom in the context of a new draft Constitution presently under the consideration of the Qatar Government.